



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

WASHINGTON DC

Chief Information Officer

JAN 27 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM-FOA-DRU-CV
DISTRIBUTION C, MAJCOM CIOs, MAJCOM LGCs

FROM: AF-CIO

SUBJECT: Information Technology Purchasing - Network Centric Solutions (NETCENTS) -
ACTION MEMORANDUM

In order to support our increasingly network centric military operations, Air Force networks and communications capabilities must be standard and interoperable. The NETCENTS contract was recently awarded to provide Air Force customers a primary source for acquiring voice, video, and data communications hardware and software. The contract is also intended as a primary source for obtaining system engineering, installation, and integration for networking, telephony, and security solutions. NETCENTS-provided solutions will implement Air Force standards and ensure interoperability with Joint architectures.

The NETCENTS contract is the mandatory source for communications capabilities procured to satisfy Air Force appropriated fund (APF) requirements for products and services associated with the design, engineering, integration, installation and configuration of Air Force networks and networked infrastructure. NETCENTS is optional, but recommended, for non-appropriated fund (NAF) requirements. In addition, AF installations in Turkey, subject to the 1980 US-Turkish Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement, are exempt from mandatory use of NETCENTS.

The NETCENTS contract provides significant opportunities for use of small, disadvantaged and local businesses. The NETCENTS contractors are to be incentivized to encourage use of these sources. In addition, consistent with Presidential and Congressional objectives to seek alternative acquisition strategies and limit unnecessary requirements consolidation, commanders and procurement officials must ensure that requirements not associated with achieving our goal of a consistent, standard communications architecture be considered for direction to the small business sector, where those capabilities exist.

All ongoing APF acquisition efforts shall incorporate NETCENTS. Deviation from this policy requires written approval from the appropriate MAJCOM CIO or Air Staff functional area CIO. This waiver authority will not be delegated. When evaluating waiver requirements, CIOs will consider the enterprise nature of NETCENTS and the overall impact to the Air Force. Waiver guidelines are provided in the attachment.

All waivers must be forwarded to AF-CIO/S (afcios.workflow@pentagon.af.mil) and will be retained by the AF-CIO Secretariat for periodic review by the AF CIO. Questions regarding

this action memorandum can be directed to Mr. Rick Nelson, AF-CIO/S, 703-696-6643 (DSN: 426), eric.nelson@pentagon.af.mil, or Dr. Melva Strang from the NETCENTS Program Office at 334-416-5323 (DSN: 596), melva.strang@gunter.af.mil.



JOHN M. GILLIGAN
Chief Information Officer

Attachment:
Waiver Guidelines

cc:
AF/ILC
AF/XIC
SAF/SB
SAF/AQC

NETCENTS Waiver Guidelines

The following are NETCENTS waiver guidelines:

- A waiver is required prior to release of any formal notification to industry of a pending requirement for services/solutions that are covered by NETCENTS.

- Waivers are required when pre-existing contract options are considered for exercise. If the scopes of the current contracts with options overlap with the scope of the NETCENTS contract, contracting officers shall immediately take all practical measures to use/transition to the NETCENTS contract. Through 30 September 2005, contracting officers shall submit a Determination and Finding (D&F) to the appropriate MAJCOM CIO or Air Staff functional area CIO to document the exercising of an option in situations where timing issues preclude a smooth transition to the NETCENTS contract. The D&F shall outline the overlap of scope between the existing contract and the NETCENTS contract, the timing issues precluding use of the NETCENTS contracts, and a transition plan for using the NETCENTS contract. After 01 October 2005, contracting officers shall obtain a waiver from the appropriate MAJCOM CIO or Air Staff functional area CIO prior to exercising an existing option. Contracts in place with options that have not been exercised that support the achievement of AF small business, small disadvantaged business, 8(a), or other disadvantaged group goals shall not require a waiver. Contracting Officers, however, shall follow the procedures in FAR 17.207(c) as normal to determine if exercising the option is the most advantageous method of filling the government's need.

- If the acquiring organization's business case identifies a source of the required product/service from a vendor who provides better value than could be provided through the NETCENTS contract, a waiver is justified for the purchase. This value assessment must include total cost of ownership, and not just initial purchase price.

- A waiver is required if the acquiring organization can demonstrate a mission urgency that cannot be satisfied via the NETCENTS contract.

- A waiver is required when the proposed product/service deviates from approved AF standards and architecture.

- A waiver is warranted when it can be demonstrated by the requiring activity that a contemplated contract with a small business, small disadvantaged business, 8(a) concern or other disadvantaged entity will support the set-aside goals of the requiring MAJCOM while still meeting the approved AF standards and architecture. Prior to the submission for the waiver, a determination and finding must be made by the Contracting Officer, which states that the economies of scale and other benefits of standardization afforded by using the NETCENTS contracts have been carefully weighed and considered and are offset by the advantages afforded by the small or small and disadvantaged businesses that can produce the supply and/or provide the service. These advantages may include technical benefits, expected cost savings, contribution toward meeting a set-aside goal that would not be met through NETCENTS, or maintaining the vitality of the local small

business or small disadvantaged business base. A statement shall be included that affirms that any award made will not result in degradation of AF standards and architecture.

- In non-US locations, a waiver is warranted when the NETCENTS contract conflicts with any host country contract for information technology equipment and services.